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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Date: April 10, 2009

To: Examiner Karen C. Tang, Group Art Unit 2451

Fax No.: (571)273-3116

Confirmation No. 4400

From: Mark D. Pratt

Number of pages being transmitted, including this cover sheet: 4

Please direct all questions concerning the transmittal of these pages to Angela Sharpe.

RE: Serial No. 10/535,394 (Hiroshi KUTSUMI et al.), filed May 18, 2005

MESSAGE: Examiner Tang: Enclosed is a brief interview agenda for the telephone interview scheduled for Tuesday April 14th at 2:00pm.

Agenda:

- 1) Discuss briefly the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 and objection to the specification.
- 2) Discuss the enclosed proposed amendments to the specification, and claims 40 and 42.
- 3) Discuss any other issues in the application.

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I will contact you at 2:00pm on Tuesday. If you need to contact me prior to the interview, I can be reached at 202-721-8238.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Pratt
Reg. No. 45,794

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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph on pg. 3, lines 19- 26 as follows:

The present invention can be realized not only as the above mentioned operation history utilization system, but also as follows: an operation history utilization method including the characteristic components of the system as steps; a single device or a single service provision apparatus included in the operation history utilization system; a program executed by a personal computer and the like; and a computer-readable storage medium in which the program is stored, such as CD-ROM.

Amendments to the Claims 40 and 42

40. (Currently Amended) A service provision apparatus which provides a user with service by utilizing the user operation history on a plurality of devices, the apparatus comprising:

at least one processor and a memory device, the memory device storing a program that causes the service provision apparatus to operate as:

a reception unit that receives operation data describing the user's operation details transmitted from the plurality of devices; and

a service provision unit that accumulates the received operation data as operation history data in chronological order, to specify a frequent operation pattern which is a sequence of frequent operation patterns based on the accumulated operation history data, and to provide service according to the user's behavior predicted from the specified frequent operation pattern,

wherein the program also causes said service provision apparatus to include to operate as:

an operation history reception unit that receives the operation history data transmitted from said plurality of devices;

an operation history database unit that accumulates the received operation history data;

a pattern extraction unit that extracts the frequent operation pattern from the operation history data accumulated in said operation history database unit;

a pattern database unit that stores the extracted frequent operation pattern, the frequent operation pattern including operation history data that is classified into a group and accumulated for the plurality of devices during a predetermined time interval;

a pattern monitor unit that monitors whether or not a sequence of operation history data newly received by said operation history reception unit corresponds to the frequent operation pattern stored in said pattern database unit;

a service provision unit that provides the service according to the user's behavior predicted from a result of the monitoring performed by said pattern monitor unit; and

a function database unit that stores a predetermined relationship between operations performed by said plurality of devices and a function provided to the user in response to the operations,

wherein said pattern extraction unit compares the operation history data accumulated in said operation history database unit with a predetermined relationship in said function database unit, convert the operation history data into a sequence of functions, extracts a frequent function pattern from the sequence of functions, and stores the extracted frequent function pattern into said pattern database unit,

said service provision unit provides the service relating to said plurality of devices according to the user's behavior predicted from the result of monitoring performed by said pattern monitoring unit, and

the function provided to the user is a main function associated with names of said plurality of devices.

42. (Currently Amended) A program stored on a computer-readable storage medium for a service provision apparatus which provides a user with service by utilizing the user's operation history on a plurality of devices, the program causing a computer to execute steps of:...